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ABSTRACT

This guide is designed for foreign students in the visual arts fields studying at Temple University (Pennsylvania) through its intensive English language program (IELP). It focuses on the practical information needed by students to make educational and personal decisions. The first two sections outline various educational opportunities in the arts both at Temple University and at other institutions in the United States, including opportunities for study outside the United States. Such issues as program design, school rankings, alumni networks, tuition, information sources, academic progress, transferring between schools, and majors are discussed. The third section offers practical information about applying to schools, including the role of portfolios, language test scores, and oral language requirements. Visual arts study opportunities for Temple University IELP students are covered in greater detail in the fourth section, and places of interest for visual arts students in the Philadelphia area are described briefly in the final section. (MSE)

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IELP Guide for Visual Arts Students

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Foreword to ESL Professionals

This student guide has three purposes:

* to provide information that would enhance the study abroad experience for ESL students interested in the visual arts at Temple University's Intensive English Language Program (IELP).

* to present different visual arts study opportunities for students while they are in IELP.

* to clarify the application process for students who plan to apply for admission into a visual arts program in the United States.

This guide, although specifically developed for IELP students, can be used as a model or reference for addressing the needs of students interested in the visual arts in other university ESL programs, or it can be applied to other content areas.

A great distinction must be made between the study abroad experiences of students in the United States and those of native English speakers studying in Europe. At the Tyler School of Art in Rome, students can take a variety of course work that focuses upon the visual arts of the studied environment with a significant amount of class time spent on-site. Meanwhile, ESL students in the United States have limited access to learning about the artistic culture of the host country, as they are almost exclusively restricted to instruction in general ESL programs. At most, these programs offer field trips, but they don't often address the content and tourist-oriented needs that the students may have.

Consequently, the medium of instruction is the foremost distinction between these two experiences. The program in Rome is taught in the student's first language, English, while the latter is taught in the students' second language, also in English. However, with developments in content-based instruction, we are now able to address students' content and tourist-oriented needs; in this case, by shaping course work to expose the host country's artistic culture and/or to prepare students for content study in the visual arts. At Temple's IELP, this takes the form of advanced content electives in the visual arts, ESL-oriented field trips that explore Philadelphia's artistic heritage, and study opportunities with Temple/Tyler faculty which were initiated when IELP approached the visual arts departments.

Meanwhile, the application process for ESL students wishing to apply to visual arts programs can seem daunting. Information in school catalogs is often hard to find, difficult to read, and doesn't describe activities specifically for the ESL visual arts student. Current administrative support and advising, while well-meaning, is often understaffed and is responsible for students of all academic interests. Often is the case where students ask ESL faculty to recommend schools and explain the

application procedure, of which their knowledge of art and design programs is spotty at best. Advising services and admissions offices have not had adequate ESL training which would facilitate student understanding of technical matters; even advanced students need linguistic modifications. Also, in their investigations, students learn about differences in requirements for admission that often conflict with 'official information'. Adding to difficulties with comprehension, this, in particular, causes a great amount of confusion and students learn that their investigation tactics need to be reconsidered.

At Temple University, four problems arose. First, Temple's art school, the Tyler School of Art, is a top-ranked school which is extremely competitive and strictly upholds its TOEFL requirements (500 undergraduate, 575 graduate). For example, in 1995, 5% of applicants were admitted into its MFA/Painting program. For ESL visual artists, this sometimes meant that Tyler was, at best, a "first-choice" school. Despite constant encouragement, most of our students did not know how to go about finding a school that suited their individual needs; instead, they preferred to apply to schools identified by teachers that they respected in their home country or at IELP.

Second, as I had an art background and taught the advanced content elective, Language of Art and Design, I often acted as a resource person for the students. This, in turn, created two problems: I was asked the same questions repeatedly (addressed in this guide); with my impending departure, it was desired that something be organized to assist the students and the IELP faculty that advise them.

Third, students learned about different visual arts study opportunities in an ad-hoc manner. They sometimes learned about tourist-oriented activities that interested them after being at IELP for quite some time, which was disappointing to some who were in Philadelphia for only a brief period. For study opportunities, this meant that students who had access to me took part in courses and lectures, while others did not have this information. For the application process, some students neither knew about portfolio requirements nor had a portfolio, perceived the TOEFL requirement as an inflexible barrier and the sole factor in admissions decisions, and had no idea about admissions deadlines. Finally, because of the transient nature of ESL programs and the differences in the first languages of the students, information did not flow as one might expect.

While the issues of ESL visual arts students are addressed in this guide and language modifications have been made to facilitate intermediate- and advanced-level understanding, this is not a direct language teaching tool. Instead, the objective is to empower these students with practical information relevant to their specific situation and interests as a means of culturally enriching their study abroad experience, be it two months or four years, and speeding up their ability to confidently approach the application procedure for admission into a visual arts program.

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I. Introduction

Welcome to IELP!

While you are taking the time to improve your English skills, we would like to introduce you to opportunities to learn about and participate in the visual arts during your time with us. Also, if you plan to apply to a program at Temple/Tyler or another school in the United States, this guide will help you understand the admissions process and find a school that is right for you.

The admissions process in the United States is probably very different than in your country. There are application deadlines (sometimes almost a year in advance), transcripts, TOEFL scores, and sometimes letters of recommendation and SAT scores. For art, design, and architecture students, a portfolio is often required for your application. Making the situation very complex, different schools have different requirements for admission. Achieving certain test scores **DOES NOT** guarantee admission in any way. Adding to this confusion, sometimes admission into one program at a school is more, or less, difficult than another program in the same school. Further, sometimes the admissions process is different for two different students applying to the same program.

In this complex system, situations change. If you come across a situation that doesn't fit this guide, please contact the IELP Visual Arts Advisor so that we can help you and/or change the information in this guide.

Finding a school takes time. This guide will help you get started.

Good luck!

II. What is offered at Temple University?

A. Two Art Programs: Temple and Tyler

NOTE: Acceptance into IELP and Continuing Education **DOES NOT** guarantee acceptance into Tyler or Temple. There is a separate application procedure.

There are two undergraduate art programs here: TEMPLE and TYLER. Temple offers a BA in art while Tyler offers a BFA. In the Temple program, you must take more liberal arts courses and less studio classes than the Tyler program. Tyler is very difficult to get into, while admission to Temple is easier. However, because it requires more language-oriented liberal arts courses, it may be more difficult for you to pursue the Temple program.

If you get accepted and enter the Temple program, you can reapply as a transfer student to the BFA program at Tyler at a later date. However, you should apply as early as possible as the program requirements are different.

Graduate, or MFA study, is also different. Only Tyler offers this degree. Apply to Tyler, but please note that getting accepted to Tyler can be very difficult. You can send your slide portfolio before reaching the 575 TOEFL, but you must achieve at least a 575 by the month of March **before** your desired September admission.

For more information about the BA, BFA, and MFA degree programs, contact Ms. Heather Jones in the Tyler Admissions Office at (215) 782-2875.

B. Architecture

Temple offers a BS (four years) and a BArch (five years). A portfolio is recommended, but not required, for acceptance into the program. For more information, contact Ms. Cheryl Tracy at (215) 204-6389. Sometimes, special arrangements can be made to discuss your portfolio before getting the Department of Architecture's 550 TOEFL score.

C. Art History

Temple offers the B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. For more information, contact Dr. Jan Evans at (215) 204-7837.

D. Opportunities for Study Outside of the United States through Temple

In addition to the facilities at Temple/Tyler in the Philadelphia area, sometimes visual artists can study at the Rome and Tokyo campuses as part of their degree programs. Also, Tyler offers a studio program in Glasgow, Scotland.

In addition, Temple can sometimes make arrangements for you to study in other countries. For Korean students, it may be possible to study at a Korean university and gain Temple credits. These are excellent opportunities which can expand your education and cultural horizons. Call the International Programs office at (215) 204-8548 for more information.

III. Which Schools Should I Apply for in the United States?

A. Changes in Rankings of Schools

Is going to a highly ranked school important to you? If so, then you should be aware of the following information.

In the United States, the rankings of schools and programs can change quickly. However, reputations take time to change, particularly overseas. For example, your professor may recommend schools that were highly ranked 20 years ago, but may not be today.

Adding to this confusion, individual programs are ranked. So, a school with an overall high ranking may or may not have a strong program in your field.

You and your family may want to consider the changes in these rankings. Do you want your country's top 10 or the current American top 10? If you choose your country's top 10, will your country's ranking change during your career? Will this affect you? If you choose a current American top 10 school, will your country recognize it?

For information about current American rankings, look at U.S. News and World Report's "America's Best Graduate Schools". They also have an edition that focuses on undergraduate programs. Both are available at Border's Book Shop listed under the section on bookstores in this guide.

B. Alumni Networks

Are alumni networks important to you? To your country? If so, are there many students at the school from your country? Is there a large alumni from your country? Who went to the school that you are applying to?

C. Price of Tuition

The price of a school's tuition is determined by where they get their money. Tuition only pays a portion of the cost of the student's education. A public institution receives money from governmental sources, while private institutions receive less money from the government, more from private sources, and charge a higher tuition.

Private and public schools can be both very selective or very open. The price of tuition in no way determines the quality or reputation of the school. However, generally speaking, because the tuition is more expensive, a private school will

attract a wealthier student population.

D. Sources for Information about Schools

You probably already have some information about schools from family and friends back home. However, you may need more information to apply to a school that is right for you.

You can ask your IELP instructors or Ms. Tisa. You may want to ask Temple professors who are teaching in your area of interest or look at the Temple and Tyler catalogs. If you would like information about other schools, the following books will be helpful:

Peterson's Guide to Two-Year Colleges. Peterson's Guides: Princeton, NJ, 1994.

Professional Degree Programs in the Visual and Performing Arts. Peterson's Guides, Inc.: Princeton, NJ, 1995.

Peterson's Guide to Four-Year Colleges. Peterson's Guides: Princeton, NJ, 1994.

Pintoff, Ernest. The Complete Guide to American Film Schools. Penguin Books: New York, 1994.

Peterson's Guide to Graduate Programs, Book 2. Peterson's Guides: Princeton, NJ, 1995.

In these books, you will get basic information about the school. Call the admissions office at the school and request a catalog and application. Sometimes, you will have to buy the catalog.

Also, the following book discusses issues directly related to your situation as a foreign student:

The College Handbook Foreign Student Supplement 1995. College Entrance Examination Board: New York, 1995.

Before looking at the catalog, make a list of questions that are important to you. If they are not in the catalog, you can call and ask the admissions office.

NOTE: A school catalog can be deceptive. Remember, often, it acts as an advertisement. It is always best to visit the school whenever possible and speak to students, alumni, and faculty.

E. You Got In, But Can You Get Through?

The system of admission and retention is different in the United States from some other countries. Comparing the United States and Japan, college entrance is far more difficult in Japan while completing the degree is far more difficult in the United States.

For example, attending class, getting to class on time, and finishing homework and projects on time are far more important in the United States. 59.5% and below is an F, and students get Fs for work that would not be an F in other countries. Most schools require at least a 2.0 GPA, or a C average, in order for a student to stay in school and graduate. **It is your responsibility to know these cultural differences BEFORE taking classes.**

So, let's say that you have two choices: (1) study in an intensive English language program for one year; or (2) go directly to an art and design school with your 425 TOEFL score. The former will delay your study of art and design, but after a year, you'll be much better prepared for successfully completing classes. With the latter, you will have serious problems speaking and expressing ideas in studio classes and completing your required reading-focused liberal arts courses. Your grades will be poorer throughout your study, and if you get below a 2.0, you will probably be asked to leave the school. If you want to transfer schools, you may be required to take ESL classes all over again. Most likely, you will have to go to a lower ranking school.

F. Transferring to a Different School the American Way

In the United States, transferring to another school is much more common and easier than in some other countries. Here, transferring means changing schools AND getting credit for your previous college work. For example, American students can attend one college their freshman year, another college their sophomore year, and another college their junior and senior year!

However, graduate-level study is different. At most, you may be able to transfer only 1-2 courses from different schools.

Different schools have different transfer requirements and will accept different classes. Always find out this information when applying as a transfer student.

WARNING!: While transferring is far more common in the United States, it can be tricky. For example, one student went to a college believing that she could transfer her classes. In fact, the school may have told her this. When she applied to one college as a transfer student, she was notified that she could not transfer classes from the particular school.

In order for you to avoid this situation, you should contact the admissions office at a school that you might want to transfer into before taking classes at the school. In particular, if you take classes at a school with a low TOEFL score, some schools may reject these classes.

For more information about transferring into Tyler, contact Ms. Heather Jones in the Tyler Admissions Office at (215) 782-2875. For architecture, contact Ms. Cheryl Tracy at (215) 204-6389.

G. What If I Want to Change My Major?

In the United States, changing majors is much easier than in some other countries because the degrees often require some portion of general study outside the major. For example, it is sometimes possible to choose a major in your third year.

However, except for art history, switching majors in the visual arts can be more difficult because of required studio classes. Yet, check with the school or department. You may be very surprised how easy it is.

IV. Practical Things You Need to Know When Applying to a School

A. Applications

For graduate and undergraduate study, you should apply to at least 3-5 schools at different levels of difficulty. For most schools, you will need a portfolio. Sometimes, your TOEFL score is important, sometimes not.

NOTE: Most competitive schools have application deadline from 6-10 months before the academic year begins in September. Learn about the application requirements and deadlines for the schools that may interest you AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

B. Portfolios

Unlike some other countries, a portfolio is required for application to most schools, except for art history students. A portfolio is a collection of your previous work. This work could have been done in high school, at a private institute, or on your own without a teacher.

For some schools, the portfolio is more important than everything else in your application.

What should I do if I don't have a portfolio?

If you don't have a portfolio, you need to make one. The best way to begin is to get three catalogues from schools that you might be interested in attending. What do they require?

To make a portfolio, you can work alone, with a tutor, or take some of the study opportunities mentioned in Section V.

You could also enter a school which does not require a portfolio. Afterwards, you can apply for transfer if you want to get a degree from a higher ranked school.

C. TOEFL Scores

If you are a student interested in the visual arts, don't believe the TOEFL requirements in the college books! An explanation for this is very complex. Practically speaking, the requirements vary considerably for visual arts programs. However, for art history students, the TOEFL is usually a fact of life.

How Do I Find Out the Real TOEFL Score?

It's difficult. First, try to ask other students from your country who are studying at the school. They will know.

If you can't ask them, find out the TOEFL score that the school "requires" in the school catalog or in a general college resource book. Then, ask the admissions counselor, "Will you consider a student with a very good portfolio, but does not have a ___ TOEFL score?" They will either say yes or no. If they say "yes", then you have your answer! Apply and good luck!

As a general rule, the better your portfolio, and the better your TOEFL score, the higher the school you will get in. But, remember, at some schools, your PORTFOLIO comes first, TOEFL second.

Why are there different TOEFL requirements?

It depends on the school's philosophy towards art production, whether the school is publicly-funded or privately-funded, the number of international students at the school, the TOEFL scores of the international students that apply, and other things. Generally speaking, schools <u>try</u> to uphold their TOEFL requirements.

However, see **You Got In, But Can You Get Through?**

D. Speaking Requirements: Not on the TOEFL, but...

In addition to your portfolio and the TOEFL score, you need to be concerned about your English for Academic Purposes skills: speaking and listening for studio classes; reading and writing for your required liberal arts classes. In **You Got In, But Can You Get Through?**, you learned that getting through college in the United States is much more difficult than in some other countries.

The speaking requirements for the visual arts student include giving presentations, participating in critiques which use highly abstract language, and participating in discussions in your studio and liberal arts classes. If you have problems doing this, problems also occur for the professor and the school.

NOTE: Recently, there has been greater attention paid to an international student's ability to speak in the classroom. The situation is quite different from twenty years ago.

V. Visual Arts Study Opportunities for IELP Students

The following opportunities may be available for you while you are at IELP. However, making special arrangements takes time. You must contact us as soon as possible and tell us your interest. If you wait, it will be more difficult to take advantage of these special arrangements.

These study opportunities, made through Continuing Education programs, mean that you are taking courses at the school. It does not mean that you are a student in a degree program. In order to enroll in a degree program, you must apply for admission into a degree program.

PLEASE NOTE: You are now a representative of Temple's IELP Program. As many of these study opportunities are new to IELP visual arts students, and teaching IELP students will be new to these schools, you are their first impression. Getting to class on time, completing homework assignments on time, and working hard are very important to help insure further access for future IELP students.

A. IELP's Course in the Language of Art and Design

This content elective, available to students in Levels 5 and 6 (advanced), offers an introduction to the language of art and design needed for art history and studio classes. The course focuses on expressing ideas through speaking and writing, and can act as a precourse to Art History 51: Visual Experience, which would fulfill a distribution requirement, at Temple University. The course includes 2-3 field trips to see art and architecture in downtown Philadelphia. **No previous art or design knowledge is required.** For more information, contact the IELP Visual Arts Students Advisor or Ms. Tisa.

B. IELP's Drawing Course

This content elective, available to students in Levels 5 and 6 (advanced), offers an opportunity to learn how to draw or to practice your drawing skills. For ESL, students will practice the language used in the drawing classroom. **No previous drawing experience is required.** For more information, contact the IELP Visual Arts Students Advisor or Ms. Tisa.

C. Portfolio Preparation

Tyler and the Architecture Program offer a portfolio workshop during the summer for junior and senior high school students. If you are a **LEVEL 5 or 6 STUDENT (ADVANCED)** and don't have a portfolio, this is an excellent opportunity to make one with the assistance of the Tyler and Architecture staff.

At Tyler, in 1995, the cost was $325 for the 5 hour a day two week workshop. To get more information or register for this workshop, contact the IELP Visual Arts Student Advisor or Ms. Tisa for assistance, or contact the Associate Dean's office directly at (215) 782-2718. Space is limited, so plan ahead.

For more information about the Architecture Program workshop, contact Mr. John Pron at (215) 204-4301, room 811 in the architecture building.

D. Other Study Opportunities at Tyler

It may be possible to take Tyler classes as a non-matriculating student (not accepted into a degree program). In order to find out if this is possible, contact the department head who is in charge of the course that you want to take. The department head will determine if your level of English is okay to take the class, not your TOEFL score. If you are interested, ask the IELP Visual Arts Student Advisor for the list of department heads at Tyler.

NOTE: Available classes do not include foundation level classes. Space is extremely limited.

Also, Tyler offers a wide variety of low-cost, non-credit workshops on Saturday and Sunday mornings during the fall and spring semesters and during the summer at different times. If you are a **LEVEL 5 or 6 STUDENT (ADVANCED)**, this is an excellent opportunity to study at Tyler.

For more information, contact Ms. Danielle Kerner for Weekend Workshops at (215) 782-2760; for summer workshops, contact the Associate Dean's office at (215) 782-2715. Space is limited, so plan ahead.

E. Arts Courses for Credit at Temple

The following courses are available to **LEVEL 5 and 6 STUDENTS (ADVANCED)** with special permission by Ms. Tisa: Introduction to Visual Language, Design; Introduction to Visual Language, Drawing; and Introduction to Visual Language, Painting. Other courses may also be available. For more information, contact the IELP Visual Arts Student Advisor or Ms. Tisa.

F. Observing Classes

Are you interested in seeing how students and professors interact in the American classroom? Do you want to see students drawing from a nude model as opposed to a plaster statue, or do you want to see a freshman architecture studio class? Do you want to see how much of the class you understand?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then observing a class is probably a good idea. Sometimes, IELP students can observe visual arts classes. For more information about observing the architecture studio class, contact Professor Kate Wingert at (215) 204-7903, room 915 in the architecture building. For studio art classes, contact the IELP Visual Art Student Advisor or Ms. Tisa for more information.

Also, IELP students can attend the Visiting Lecture Series put on by the Architecture Program. Contact the Main Office of the Architecture Program for more information.

G. Other Opportunities

Fleisher Art Memorial
719 Catherine Street
Philadelphia
(215) 922-5557
Cost: Fall and Spring:FREE; Summer: small fee approximately $100
Credit: Non-credit
When: All year
Contact: Contact Nancy Wright at (215) 922-3456, ext. *12
Courses: A wide variety

This is the only art school in the country that offers free art classes.

Here, greater responsibility is placed upon the student. You can set your own objectives and work at your own pace. Assistance can be provided for building a portfolio.

In addition, the following schools offer courses in the visual arts: Community College of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Moore College of Art and Design, University of the Arts, and the Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science.

H. Private Tutoring

In the past, we have been able to arrange for visual arts tutoring. Contact the IELP Visual Arts Advisor or Ms. Tisa if you are interested.

Because tutoring can become quite expensive, it is probably best for portfolio development.

I. Transferring Courses

The **credit** courses can be transferred to the school that you eventually attend, depending on the school's transfer requirements. Meanwhile, **non-credit** classes cannot be transferred.

However, by taking either **credit** or **non-credit** classes, you will become more prepared for your future classes by preparing for the English demands of the studio classroom. Also, you will show the school that you are applying to that you are a serious student.

VI. Places of Interest to Visual Arts Students in Philadelphia

The following are a selection of the most popular sites displaying art.
Show them your Temple identification card and ask if a student rate is available.

A. Museums/Exhibition Spaces

1. **Philadelphia Museum of Art**
   26th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway
   Philadelphia

2. **Rodin Museum**
   22nd Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway
   Philadelphia
   Admission is by donation

This small museum houses works by Auguste Rodin, an important 19th century French sculptor.

3. **Museum of American Art of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts**
   118 North Broad Street (at Cherry Street)
   Philadelphia

America's first art museum. It offers an excellent collection of American art. The unusual building was designed by an important Philadelphia architect, Frank Furness.
Also, for Korean students, there will be an exhibition on the work of Paik Nam June in November 1995.

4. **University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archeology and Anthropology**
   33rd and Spruce Streets
   Philadelphia

Contains a great collection of ancient art from all over the world.

5. **Institute of Contemporary Art of the University of Pennsylvania**
   36th and Sansom Streets
   Philadelphia

This exhibition space also presents important artists early in their careers. For Korean students, Cho Duck Hyun will be featured in November 1995.

6. Barnes Museum
Merion, Pennsylvania (near St. Joseph's University)

This museum, located in a former mansion, has an impressive collection of Impressionist painting.

7. First Friday
Olde City
Philadelphia

This is not a place, but instead a monthly activity organized by several galleries in the Old City section of Philadelphia. In the evening of the first Friday of every month, the galleries have openings at the same time and create a party-like atmosphere.

B. Tours of Architecture

Foundation for Architecture
One Penn Center at Suburban Station
Philadelphia
(215) 569-TOUR
(215) 569-3187

This foundation offers a variety of interesting tours of architecture throughout the city of Philadelphia. Besides learning about local architecture, it's great listening practice for advanced ESL students.

C. Sources for Information

1. Philadelphia Official Visitors Guide. FREE.
Available at the Philadelphia Visitors Center
Corner of 16th Street and JFK Boulevard
Philadelphia

Presents a detailed list and description of visitors' sites including art and architecture in the Philadelphia area.

2. Art Now Gallery Guide. FREE.
Available at Philadelphia art galleries and exhibition spaces.
Example: Philadelphia Art Alliance
251 South 18th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Provides dates and descriptions of new exhibitions in the Philadelphia area.

3. Art Matters. FREE.
Available at Philadelphia art galleries and exhibition spaces.

Provides articles of local concern as well as information on new exhibitions in the Philadelphia area.

4. City Paper. FREE.
Available in machines throughout Center City and at Temple.

Provides information about cultural activities in the Philadelphia area.

D. Bookstores

1. **Borders Book Shop**
1727 Walnut Street
Philadelphia
Other locations in the Philadelphia metropolitan area

Offers a great selection of books and magazines in the visual arts. Also, they can special order almost anything.

2. **AIA Bookstore and Design Center**
117 South 17th Street
Philadelphia
(215) 569-3188

Offers a good selection of books and gifts dealing with architecture and design.

E. Selected Coffeehouses

1. **Border's Book Shop (Coffeehouse)**
   1727 Walnut Street
   Philadelphia

2. **1521 Cafe Gallery**
   1521 Spruce Street
   Philadelphia

Offers coffee and snacks and displays work of local Philadelphia artists.

3. **The Last Drop**
   Corner of Pine and 13th Streets
   Philadelphia

More coffeehouses are listed in City Paper.